



SEAT PLEASANT NEWS

FEBRUARY 2012 EDITION

Visit us on the web at: www.seatpleasantmd.gov

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City of Seat Pleasant

Mayor

Eugene W. Grant

Council President

Kelly Porter

(At-Large Councilmember)

Ward I Councilmember

Elenora Simms

Ward II Councilmember

Aretha Stephenson

Ward III Councilmember

Reveral Yeargin

Ward IV Councilmember

Gerald Raynor

Ward V Councilmember

Darrell Hardy

At-Large Council member

VACANT

City Administrator

Vincent E. Jones

Treasurer

Robert L. Ashton

Chief of Police

Samuel Prue

Director of Public Works

Johnny Thompson

City Clerk

Dashaun Lanham



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

In my continuing efforts to improve the overall health of my constituency and address so many poor health outcomes and vast disparities, I convened a meeting at Prince Georges Hospital Center. This meeting was held so the community based organization I created "The Health Empowerment Network of Maryland, Inc." could move forward on plans to request grant funding from the federal government. Here is some background information on this important health care issue; in 2010 President Barak Obama and Congress passed the [Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act](#), therefore the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid launched a new funding mechanism and signed into law the Community Based Care Transitions Program (CCTP), making it possible for community based organizations to provide better care to their residents. So, the funds our organization are seeking would primarily provide better healthcare to seniors in the area currently enrolled in the Medicare program and give them access to better healthcare options closer to home.

The Health Empowerment Network of Maryland, Inc. (HENM) is a community based organization made up of partners such as the Prince Georges County Health Department, University of Maryland Prevention Resource Center, Prince Georges County Area Agency on Aging, Department of Mental Health and Hygiene, Integrity Health Partners and the City of Seat Pleasant, among others. As Mayor of Seat Pleasant I am dedicated to bringing quality healthcare to seniors who for too long have been some of Prince Georges County's most vulnerable and overlooked populations. During my meeting the group worked to set parameters on timelines, focus groups, and other essential data which will be written in a grant proposal and submitted to the federal government. So far, four area hospitals have joined my coalition effort, they include Prince Georges Hospital Center, Laurel Regional Hospital, Doctors Community Hospital and Fort Washington Medical Center. Additionally, I expect in the coming months to bring on at least another three hospital partners and grow my efforts so that our City of Excellence can be a shining example of what could be accomplished when you work together across the board for the good of your constituents.

John O'Brien, President of Prince Georges Hospital Center hosted this meeting and in his opening remarks stated, "Prince George's Hospital Center began one year ago to plan with the City of Seat Pleasant and the University of Maryland's Prevention Research Center to organize a coordinated program that would improve health care for city residents with chronic illnesses. Since then, the vision of Mayor Eugene W. Grant has led us to expand our concept to include other hospitals and health agencies throughout the region in a truly innovative system that holds great promise for improving health services for most of Prince George's County and the eastern District of Columbia." Mr. O'Brien added, "we are excited about the possibility of combining state of the art information technology, new care organization methods and broad community collaboration to attract a federal grant that would allow us to do what few other communities have been able to accomplish: actually improve the lives of people with chronic illnesses and reduce the need for them to seek hospital care. Seat Pleasant has been an outstanding lead community for this groundbreaking effort."

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(MAYOR'S MESSAGE CONTINUED)

During this meeting, many of HENM's members had an opportunity to set goals and timelines so that vital information could be gathered from area hospitals and the grant writing process headed up by [Integrity Health Partners](#) could begin. "Integrity Health Partners shares a common vision for health care innovation with the Health Empowerment Network of Maryland and is a committed partner, both financially and philosophically to collaboratively improve individual patient medical outcomes. Our world class professional team coupled with proven cutting edge technology, will facilitate in conjunction with the local medical community, extraordinary benefits to those lives we touch", said Charles Snyder, President & CEO of Integrity Health Partners.

Integrity Health International, based out of Zurich, Switzerland, has signed on to provide Social Impact Funding to the Community Based Organization HENM. Dr. Frederick Shepperd, CEO of Integrity Health International was at this meeting to demonstrate the extraordinary support of this global company, whose funds will go towards protecting the health, safety, and well being of the citizens located in the health communities served by HENM. At this meeting Dr. Shepperd commented "On Behalf of Integrity Health International AG, I am pleased to support the efforts of our US subsidiary and its cooperation with the Health Empowerment Network of Maryland, Inc. Individuals from around the world are looking at Prince Georges County today and looking to see how the cooperation develops with IHP, Inc. in creating the next Generation in Healthcare Delivery."

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK



The City Council has passed the following legislations in the month of January

ORDINANCE O-12-11

***FOR** the purpose of amending a new ethics ordinance for the City of Seat Pleasant adopted by Ordinance No. O-12-03 on August 8, 2011, to make certain modifications required by the State Ethics Commission to comply with requirements of Maryland law.*

Copies of this legislation are available from the Office of the City Clerk at: City Hall, 6301 Addison Road, Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743-2125

PUBLIC HEARING MEET THE CANDIDATES

Please join the City Council on **Monday, February 6, 2012 at 6:00p.m.**, Seat Pleasant City Hall, Council Chamber to meet the candidates for interest in filling the Council Vacancy.

CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT BOARD OF ELECTION SUPERVISORS

The City of Seat Pleasant is seeking interested parties for the Board of Election Supervisors. In accordance with the Seat Pleasant City Charter the duties of the Board of Elections are listed below. The interested parties shall submit a letter of interest and resume to the Office of the Mayor by **Tuesday, February 28, 2012.**

Section C-605. Duties :

The Board of Supervisors of Elections shall be in charge of the registration of voters, nominations, and all City elections. The Board may appoint election clerks or other employees to assist it in any of its duties.

All submissions for consideration **MUST** be filed in the **office of the Mayor**, Seat Pleasant City Hall, 6301 Addison Road, Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743, Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

A WORD FROM COUNCILMEMBER ELENORA SIMMS



I would like to personally thank all those who participated in the Christmas Toy Drive. Your willingness to help others and bring joy to those less fortunate was greatly appreciated.

DATES TO REMEMBER

On Saturday, **February 18h**, I will be hosting a Ward I meeting at City Hall at 1 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. Please come out and share your concerns

On **Saturday, March 10**, The City invites you to join us for kite flying in Goodwin Park from 11 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Free kites will be available while supplies last. Come out and join the fun!

MESSAGE FROM THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR

SEAT PLEASANT ON THE MOVE

Happy New Year! By the time you receive this newsletter, we will have already seen the month of January come and go. As residents, you should know that the Mayor, Council and City staff continues to work hard on your behalf to keep Seat Pleasant, "A City of Excellence".

The City ended 2011 on a high note with a very successful legislative breakfast, held in mid-December. The Breakfast allowed the City to invite all our legislators and colleagues that represent the City or otherwise work with us to conduct business, for a face-to-face networking opportunity. The Mayor and Council were able to identify the City's priorities and establish partnerships to help us achieve them. In addition to the visible work of the Legislative Breakfast, routine business of the City continued, as well. The Council reviewed and approved an update to the City's personnel manual. Additionally, we also brought on board a contract position of Economic Development Coordinator. These are two very important accomplishments for the City.

While we ended 2011 on a high note, and we hope to continue in 2012, we will face some challenges. There are two very important issues where we will need your support. The real estate assessment process will likely affect you as a homeowner and the City, as well. We are seeing significant reductions in the assessable value of properties in the City. This is the value on which property taxes are paid. The second issue has to do with the Prince George's County Fire Department's plans for a new fire station at Hill Road and Shady Glen Drive. The potential exists for this new station to negatively impact our Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department.

Please stay on the lookout for more information from us, as we learn more about the impact of these issues on the City, which we will pass along to you. Working together we can make sure that the City of Seat Pleasant remains a place that our residents are proud to call home.

CITY HIRES NEW ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR



Sunny Cooper was recently hired as an Economic Development Coordinator for the City of Seat Pleasant. Ms. Cooper has broad professional experience in matters relating to real estate development, affordable housing, and urban planning. She is a dedicated professional with over 12 years of experience.

As a consultant, she advises municipalities, private clients, community and neighborhood groups on economic development, redevelopment, and revitalization strategies. Her past professional experience include serving as a Project Manager for Real Estate Development for Neighborhood Housing Services of Baltimore (NHS). She completed homeownership real estate development projects in Baltimore County's Riverview / Halethorpe (with Green elements) and Historic East Towson communities (affordable housing with LEED for Homes and Energy Star certifications). Prior to NHS, Sunny managed compliance matters related to HOME, Tax Credit, and Bond transactions for Baltimore City's Department of Housing and for Pennrose Properties.

A proud graduate of Baltimore City College High School (City) and Coppin State University, Sunny has a Masters degree in Urban Planning from the University of Michigan. She has served as an adjunct professor for the Sociology Department at Coppin State University since 2000, instructing "Race and Ethnicity" (Fall) and "Sociology of the City" (Spring), as well as a host of other Sociology courses. We look forward to her contribution to the City.

IMPORTANCE OF PROPERTY ASSESSMENT NOTICES RECEIVED

DECEMBER 27, 2011

By Robert L. Aston, City Treasurer

The purpose of this article is to share with homeowners in the City of Seat Pleasant, the State of Maryland's results from assessment notices sent to residents December 27, 2011.

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(PROPERTY ASSESSMENT CONTINUED)**SURVEY RESULTS**

I noted in the Finance Department's section of the November 2011 newsletter, that the State of Maryland Department of Assessment and Taxation would be sending notices to all homeowners during the last week of December, indicating what your house would be valued at on January 1, 2012, and comparing that value to what the value was on January 1, 2011. In comparing the assessment notices of one hundred properties in the city there is a decline of thirty percent in property values from January 1, 2011 to January 1, 2012. Highlighted below is tax analysis reflecting the average decline in property values in the City of Seat Pleasant and the potential financial impact to the city.

ILLUSTRATION I TAX ANALYSIS

IMPACT TO CITY OF THE AVERAGE DECLINE IN PROPERTY VALUES IN THE CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT					
Market Value of the house on January 1, 2011					\$ 189,300
Market Value of the house on January 1, 2012					\$ 134,100
Per \$100.00 of Assessed Valuation					
2012			2011		
County			County		
State			State		
P & P 1			P & P 1		
San 2			San 2		
WSTC 3			WSTC 3		
T & G 4			T & G 4		
Ryc 5			Ryc 5		
Swc 6			Swc 6		
Btc 7			Btc 7		
Mun 8	\$777.78		Mun 8	\$1,097.94	
Total Taxes	\$777.78		Total Taxes	\$1,097.94	
<i>*Potential loss revenue to the city to support services as a result of a 30 % decline in the value of the property is \$ 320.06</i>					
1. Maryland National Park and Planning			5. Recycling		
2. Storm Drain Maintenance			6. Solid Waste Charge		
3. Washington Suburban Transit Commission			7. Bulky Trash Collection		
4. Trash and Garbage			8. Municipal		

THE IMPACT OF THE RESULTS ON THE DELIVERY OF CITY SERVICES

The revenues generated from this source comprise one third of the funds used to provide vital services in the City. Specially, this source pays for one million dollars of the total cost of city services. A reduction in city's fund of three hundred thousand dollars will impact city services and lead to a reduction in many services.

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PROPERTY ASSESSMENT CONTINUED)

THE PLAN OF ACTION

What the city has done is voice our concern with Prince George's County and invited Joe Hensley Supervisor of Assessments and Taxation for Prince George's County to attend the February 13, 2012 Public Meeting to explain the result of the potential loss in value of properties in the City of Seat Pleasant. It is important that all residents attend this meeting, to stay abreast of this issue and its impact on the City

CRIME STATISTICS FROM THE SEAT PLEASANT POLICE DEPARTMENT

The following table displays the crime statistics for December. January statistics will be available next month.

MARYLAND**RETURN A - MONTHLY COUNT OF OFFENSES KNOWN TO POLICE**

01723
AGENCY IDENTIFIER

FORWARD BY 7TH DAY AFTER THE END OF EACH MONTH TO :
CENTRAL RECORDS DIVISION - UCR SECTION
MARYLAND STATE POLICE, PIKESVILLE, MD 21208

1 CLASSIFICATION OF OFFENSES (PART 1 OFFENSES)	2 OFFENSES REPORTED OR KNOWN TO POLICE (INCLUDE UNFOUNDED AND ATTEMPTS)	3 UNFOUNDED, I.E. FALSE OR BASELESS COMPLAINTS	4 NUMBER OF ACTUAL OFFENSES (COLUMN 2 MINUS COLUMN 3) INCLUDE ATTEMPTS	5 TOTAL OFFENSES CLEARED BY ARREST OR EXCEPTIONAL MEANS (Includes Column 6)	6 NUMBER OF CLEARANCES INVOLVING ONLY PERSONS UNDER 18
1. Criminal Homicide	0	0	0	0	0
a. Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter	11				
b. Manslaughter by negligence	12				
2. Forcible rape Total	0	0	0	0	0
a. Rape by force	21	0	0	0	0
b. Assault to rape attempts	22	0	0	0	0
3. Robbery Total	0	0	0	0	0
a. Firearm	31	0	1	0	0
b. Knife or cutting instrument	32	0	0	0	0
c. Other dangerous weapon	33	0	0	0	0
d. Strong-arm (hands, fists, feet, etc.)	34	0	0	0	0
4. Assault Total	4	0	4	2	0
a. Firearms	41	0	0	0	0
b. Knife or cutting instrument	42	2	2	0	0
c. Other dangerous weapon	43	0	0	0	0
d. Hands, fists, feet, etc. - aggravated	44	2	2	2	0
e. Hands, fists, feet, etc. - simple	45	0	0	0	0
5. Breaking and Entering Total	4	0	4	0	0
a. Forcible entry	51	4	4	0	0
b. Unlawful entry - no force	52	0	0	0	0
c. Attempted forcible entry	53	0	0	0	0
6. Larceny - Theft Total (except Motor Vehicle Theft)	8	0	8	0	0
7. Motor Vehicle Theft Total	4	0	4	0	0
a. Autos	71	4	4	0	0
b. Trucks and Buses	72	0	0	0	0
c. Other Vehicles	73	0	0	0	0
GRAND TOTAL	20	0	20	2	0

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

THE SEAT PLEASANT ACTIVITY CENTER HAS BEEN SLATED TO CLOSE BY THE END OF JANUARY. NEARBY CENTERS AVAILABLE TO RESIDENTS ARE: CEDAR HEIGHTS, ACTIVITY CENTER 1200 GLEN WILLOW DRIVE, CAPITOL HEIGHTS, MARYLAND, AND LANDOVER PEPEMILL COMMUNITY CENTER 610 HILL ROAD, LANDOVER, MARYLAND, EVELYN COLE WILL RELOCATE TO JOHN EAGER HOWARD COMMUNITY CENTER 4000 SHELL STREET IN CAPITOL HEIGHTS, MARYLAND.

A WORD FROM CODE ENFORCEMENT



Since winter is here, the Code Enforcement Department would like the residents to be mindful of the winter cleanup process and ordinance. Due to the severe weather we had last year please remember the following:

Seat Pleasant City Code 137-33-34 Snow Removal- It shall be the duty of the owner and occupant, jointly, of every parcel of real estate adjoining a public sidewalk to keep such sidewalk adjoining such property free from snow and ice and full paved width of such sidewalk. Snow and ice shall be removed within 24 hours after the end of snowfall. Sidewalks in front of commercial establishments and commercial parking lots shall be kept free of snow and ice at all

times between the hours of 9:00a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

The Code Enforcement Department wouldn't be able to do what it does if it wasn't for the residents. With that being said, please keep a look out for squatters living in vacant properties. Because the weather is changing and it's cold, homeless people are looking for a place to stay warm. So if you happen to notice people going into the vacant houses, please call the Police non-emergency number at 301-352-1200. The Police department will also pass this information on to the Code Enforcement Department and we will try to contact the owners to properly secure the property.

FYI

§129-12. Residential collections

- All refuse, trash and shall be placed in containers of not less than 10 or more than 20 gallons' capacity. Refuse containers shall be provided by the owner or tenant and maintained in a leak proof and sanitary condition. No trash or garbage shall be placed in paper or cardboard containers. Containers shall be made of metal or of a type approved by the Mayor and Council and shall have tight- fitting lids. No container shall be too heavy to be manageable by one person.
- Trash and garbage containers shall be placed at the curb for collection no earlier than darkness of the day before collection and must be removed to the rear of properties and out of public view by darkness on the day of collection.

PERSONAL PROPERTY TIPS FROM CPAC

Do you have a camera? They are everywhere and many of us have one in some shape or form – digital, throw away, 35mm, android, iPhone, iPad, and the list goes on. Why do I ask, you say? Many of us were fortunate to receive great things through the holidays (Santa was good to us) and we often get wonderful things throughout the year. Take a look around at your gifts (old and new), and take a picture of them. If you have large items like bicycles, TVs, etc., you can also stand in the picture next to the item. After you've done this, take that picture, record all of the pertinent info about the item such as make, model, and serial number, and place all of this info with your other important papers. If your property is ever stolen, you'll have a complete record of your valuables, including a description and a photo!



Help us help you. If there's anything you'd like CPAC to discuss with the Seat Pleasant Police Department or Fire Department, please email us at cpac.seatpleasant@live.com. Let's keep Seat Pleasant safe!

SEAT PLEASANT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT LOOKING FOR "EXPLORERS"

The Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Company is recruiting for the volunteer position of "Probationary Fire Explorer". Applicants must be between the ages of 14-20, have a sincere interest in a career in the Fire and EMS department, and have at least a 2.0 GPA. The program will run from January until June. Explorers will be introduced to operations, basic life support skills, and leadership management. If youth are interested they should contact PIO Phil Martin at 301-836-1957 or email phil.martin@seatpleasantfire.com. There is an \$11.00 application fee.



A WORD FROM THE SEAT PLEASANT/ UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND HEALTH PARTNERSHIP

HEALTHY HEARTS FOR VALENTINE'S DAY

One of the things many of us love about the month of February is that we celebrate Valentine's Day. Others see it as a "made-up" holiday created for the benefit of card, candy and flower companies. However, another way to think about Valentine's Day is that it is a perfect day to remind ourselves to take care of our hearts and the hearts of those we love, not only by respecting, supporting and loving our family, friends and neighbors, but also by encouraging them to take care of their physical heart through exercise and healthy eating. With this idea in mind, the American Heart Association and other organizations declared February "National Heart Month," February 3rd National Wear Red Day (<http://goredforwomen.org/wearredday/>) and February 14th National Donor Day.

The idea behind National Wear Red Day is for everyone to wear red to bring attention to the very serious problem of heart disease in women. Many people think of heart disease as mostly a man's problem, but in fact it is the number one cause of death for women in the United States; it causes more deaths than all cancer deaths in women put together. However, because many women do not think they are likely to develop heart disease, they often do not pay attention to the signs and symptoms, or dismiss any discomfort they feel as something they ate or heartburn or stress. When people think about the symptoms of heart disease, they often think of crushing chest pain or pain down the arm. But women are more likely to have other symptoms such as neck, upper back, chest or abdominal discomfort, shortness of breath, nausea or vomiting, sweating, lightheadedness or dizziness or unusual tiredness. If you do have these symptoms, it is critical that you call 911 and get help! Red is a powerful color and women and men wearing red on the 3rd will remind us all that we can work together to decrease heart disease in both women and men.



There are many things we can do to decrease our chances of getting heart disease, including keeping blood pressure under good control, getting tested for diabetes and staying in good control if we have it, knowing our cholesterol and triglyceride levels and keeping them in good control, eating lots of vegetables and fruits, staying at our healthy weight and exercising regularly. All of these activities are important but if you have to pick only one—exercise regularly. You will be surprised at what a difference it will make to your overall health. If we could bottle and sell the positive benefits people get from exercising, we would be billionaires!

Celebrating National Donor Day in February is also a good idea—what better gift can we give to a loved one or others than the gift of life? There is a huge need for organs in the U.S., especially among minorities. African Americans are the group most in need of organ transplants, especially kidney transplants, because they are more likely to suffer from high blood pressure and diabetes, both of which can lead to end stage renal disease. You can learn more about organ donation at <http://www.organdonor.gov/index.html> and you can sign up to be an organ donor at <https://www.donatelifemaryland.org/about.aspx> if you live in Maryland, <https://www.donatelifevirginia.org/register/signup1.aspx> if you live in Virginia and <https://www.donatelifedc.org/register/> if you live in the District.

Sharon M. Desmond, Ph.D.
Seat Pleasant University of Maryland Health Partnership Co-Chairperson

NEED HELP WITH VOTER REGISTRATION?

Beginning Thursday, February 9th assistance will be provided for those needing help with completing voter registration applications. Help will be available between 3 and 5 p.m. every Thursday. For more information contact 301-336-2780.



City of Seat Pleasant

"A City of Excellence"

6301 Addison Road

Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743



PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SOUTHERN MARYLAND
PERMIT #235



**FREE TAX PREPARATION RETURNS TO
SEAT PLEASANT**

AARP will once again be providing free tax preparation for Seniors and low to moderate income Prince George's County residents at Seat Pleasant City Hall, 6301 Addison Road in Seat Pleasant Maryland. Tax preparation will begin Wednesday, February 8th and continue every Wednesday until April 11th. Though services are provided free of charge, they are provided by appointment only. No walk-ins. Appointment times are 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 12 noon and 1:00 p.m. Call 301-336-2600 to make your appointment.

**BLACK HISTORY IN
MOTION
FEBRUARY 22, 2012
PRINCE GEORGE'S BALLROOM
2411 PINEBROOK AVENUE
LANDOVER, MARYLAND**

10:30am - 12:00pm

Come and celebrate Black History Month with seniors from around the county. This program will delight you with a variety of live performances including music, re-enactments, dance, poetry, art, memorabilia, exhibits and guest speakers. For more information contact 301-446-3500.

**BUS IS AVAILABLE FOR SEAT PLEASANT
SENIORS ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVE
BASIS. SEATING IS LIMITED.
CALL 301-336-2600.**